

Each and every day, law enforcement officers risk themselves to protect the rights and freedoms we enjoy as citizens of this great country. Their commitment and sacrifice make our streets and homes safer, our communities stronger, and keep our families secure.

On October 1, 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed Public Law 87-726, proclaiming May 15 of each year as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week of each year during which May 15 occurs as National Police Week. The week is a time to honor Federal, State and municipal officers who have been killed or disabled in the line of duty. This law was amended by the 103rd Congress as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act in 1994 to order the United States flag on all government buildings displayed at half-staff on May 15.

Since the turn of the last century, more than 60 law enforcement officers have been killed in the line of duty in New Mexico ten since 1996. I would like to bring special attention to two events in particular, while realizing that all are nonetheless significant. One occurred long ago, and the second just this past year.

The first took place the year prior to my election to this body. On the night of November 8, 1971, New Mexico State Police Officer Robert Rosenbloom was gunned down after he stopped a vehicle on Interstate 40 west of Albuquerque. Three murder suspects—Charles Hill, Ralph Lawrence Goodwin, and Michael Robert Finney—fled to Albuquerque. On November 27, they forced an Albuquerque tow truck operator at gunpoint to drive them to the runway of Albuquerque International Airport. Once there, the hijackers seized control of a commercial jet and forced the pilot to fly to Havana, Cuba.

Under the protection of Fidel Castro, they have avoided American justice. It has been reported that one suspect died in Cuba; however, there are still outstanding warrants for all three suspects. These men have been given asylum in Cuba and we continue to seek the extradition of these men for trial. Today, I renew my call for Cuba and Fidel Castro to return these fugitives. This shall also serve notice that those of us from New Mexico have not forgotten, and we will forever hold out desire for due justice.

I would also like to remember Patrick K. Hardesty. Patrick grew up in Artesia, NM, where he established himself as a talented musician and Eagle Scout. In fact, he was one of my military academy nominees years ago. While making a career in the U.S. Marine Corps and Reserve, Patrick earned a college degree and joined the Tucson, AZ police force after retiring from the military. On May 26, 2003, about this time last year, he was brutally shot and killed while investigating a minor hit-and-run in midtown Tucson.

I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the unselfish dedication of Robert Rosenbloom and Patrick Hardesty, and

all the brave men and women who have devoted their lives to public protection and service.

We remember their dedication to protect and serve, and the tragic price they paid for that devotion. We also remember the families of these two officers and the sacrifices they have incurred because of a deep-seated commitment to duty and public service. All of us from New Mexico owe a debt of gratitude to each and every officer who has lost their lives in the line of duty.

We would do well to remember to express our gratitude to the officers who continue to serve us day to day. The men and women of law enforcement, through their service, are most worthy of our thanks and highest respect. To all who have paid the ultimate price and to those who continue to serve, may we forever be grateful and never take for granted what you do. You have my utmost admiration.

IN COMMEMORATION OF POLICE WEEK

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to the 145 law enforcement officers who gave their lives in service to their communities last year. They are true heroes, and their families are owed our gratitude.

This is National Police Week. Tonight, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund will host the 16th Annual Candlelight Vigil on the grounds of the National Law Enforcement Memorial here in Washington. Three hundred and sixty-two names will be added to the memorial tonight—145 officers who were killed in 2003, and 217 who were lost in prior years. Saturday, the Fraternal Order of Police will host the National Peace Officers' Memorial Day Service on the West Front of the Capitol. Together, these two events, along with other events throughout the city this week, should make us all pause and give thanks to police officers throughout the Nation who protect our communities against crime and terrorism.

We lost fewer officers in the line of duty last year than we have in years past, and the total is well below the 230 officers killed in 2001, when we lost 72 officers on September 11 alone. But the numbers of lost officers is still far too high. On average, one out of every 9 officers is assaulted per year, one out of every 25 is injured, and one out of every 4,400 is killed in the line of duty annually. Police risk their own lives in our service each and every day, and we should keep these sobering statistics in mind every week, not just during police week.

Law enforcement is an inherently dangerous undertaking, and police officers have become our front lines in the war on terror. I fear we are underfunding their efforts as we reorient Federal assistance to local law enforcement post 9/11, but that is a conversation for another day. Today, and this entire week, we give police officers our

thanks, we remember those that paid the ultimate price while serving our communities, and we give comfort to the loved ones they have left behind.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise to recognize nine extraordinary individuals from my home State of Wisconsin. Each of them dedicated, and ultimately sacrificed, their lives to protect their fellow citizens.

On Thursday, May 13, 2004, a candlelight vigil will be held at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial to add 362 more names to the memorial. Each day, law enforcement officers risk life and limb to serve the public. On average, 167 officers are killed each year in the line of duty. This memorial is a lasting tribute to these courageous individuals.

Nine of the names being added today belong to law enforcement officers who served throughout the State of Wisconsin. For the sacrifices they have made on our behalf, the citizens of Wisconsin owe these brave individuals and their families a debt that can never be repaid. I would like to honor them by placing their names in the RECORD, along with the date of their untimely passing.

They are: Harry O. Harris of St. Croix County—6/18/1904; Richard Meyer of Winnebago County—11/13/2003; Roland Silas Payne of Wisconsin Rapids—11/10/1939; Roy Sampson of La Crosse County—9/24/1952; Matt Schumacher of the Wisconsin Department of the Treasury—9/22/1934; Michael Eron Shannon of Adams County—3/7/2003; Charles Snover of Waukesha County—7/28/1935; Curtis Owen Starr of Viroqua—3/13/1953; and Bruce Allen Williams of Green Lake County—10/19/2003.

Every day, public safety officers around the country put themselves in harm's way to make our communities safer. It is important that we honor their dedication and commitment to making our country and our communities a better place in which to live. That is particularly true of those who have lost their lives in the line of duty, but it is also true of those who take that risk day after day. For their commitment and dedication to their profession, we are forever in their debt.

TO AUTHORIZE SEPARATE MEDALS FOR THE IRAQ AND AFGHAN MILITARY CAMPAIGNS

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of the legislation we are seeking an agreement to consider that would honor the service of our men and women in uniform who are defending our freedom honorably in Iraq and Afghanistan. This legislation would award separate campaign medals to members of the Armed Forces who participate in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The bill passed the House of Representatives unanimously in March and was reported by the Senate Armed Services Committee earlier this week.

I am proud to have worked with my colleague, Senator JEFF BINGAMAN, and others on a companion bill in the Senate.

I know after talking with service men and women from Arkansas that this is an important effort which will allow us to properly honor and recognize the individual sacrifice of those who put their lives on the line so far away from home to defend the freedom we cherish as Americans.

In an effort to demonstrate support for our men and women in the military, I am circulating a Soldiers Bill of Rights petition in Arkansas to demonstrate to my colleagues in Washington how important it is to honor the sacrifice of our veterans and their families. This legislation is one of ten priorities I have included in my Soldiers Bill of Rights and I hope we can pass this bill in the immediate future.

I close my remarks by commending my colleague, Congressman VIC SNYDER, who led this effort in the House. VIC is a good friend and a Vietnam Veteran, and I am very proud of his leadership on this issue on behalf of the constituents we represent in Arkansas.

GASOLINE FREE MARKET COMPETITION ACT

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I would like to express my support as a cosponsor for S. 1737, the Gasoline Free Market Competition Act. Over the past few months, oil prices have skyrocketed \$40 per barrel, the highest price since 1990. High gasoline prices are inextricably linked to high crude oil prices. And these high oil and gas prices hurt Americans across the Nation and from all walks of life. Farmers, teachers, and small business owners across the country and in Wisconsin in particular are getting hit hard by these outrageous costs.

The statistics are staggering. For gasoline, the increases in crude oil prices have resulted in an average national price of \$1.96 per gallon. In Wisconsin, the current average price for a gallon of self-service regular unleaded gasoline in Wisconsin is \$1.821, according to AAA's Fuel Gauge Report. The current average is 7.1 cents higher than a month ago at this time and 23.6 cents higher than a year ago at this time. These are the highest gas prices we have seen in 13 years.

Unfortunately, under current law, the Department of Energy can conduct investigations into gasoline prices, but it does have the power to enforce the law or sanction companies for price manipulation. On the other hand, the Federal Trade Commission, FTC, does have the power to protect consumers from gas price manipulation. The FTC is supposed to promote competition and free markets, but all too often, the FTC has not actively overseen energy markets to prevent price fixing and market manipulation.

Congress needs to direct the FTC to eliminate anticompetitive practices

that currently cause a chokehold on the competitiveness of independent gas distributors and gas station owners. That is why I am supporting the Gasoline Free Market Competition Act, S. 1737. This legislation would modernize antitrust law to prohibit anticompetitive practices by single companies in the concentrated gasoline markets. The gasoline market in Wisconsin and at least 27 other States are now considered to be "tight oligopolies" with four companies controlling more than 60 percent of the gasoline supplies. We need to ensure that these concentrated markets are not subject to manipulation.

S. 1737 would address two major problems tied to gasoline price-fixing called "redlining" and "zone pricing." In tightly concentrated markets, numerous studies have found oil company practices are driving independent wholesalers and dealers out of the market. One anticompetitive practice is called "redlining," which limits where independent distributors can sell their gasoline. As a result, independent stations must buy their gasoline directly from the oil company, usually at a higher price than the company's own brand-name stations pay. With these higher costs, the independent station cannot compete. Investigations have also found large consolidated oil companies control not just the buying choices of local gas stations, but also the selling prices of gasoline distributors. This anti-competitive practice is called zone pricing. The company bases prices not on the cost of producing gasoline, but on the maximum a neighborhood will pay.

The Gasoline Free Market Competition Act, S. 1737, will do three things to address this problem. First, the bill would establish "consumer watch zones" for concentrated gasoline markets like Wisconsin. Where a few companies control a large part of the market, they can manipulate supplies and restrict competition with ease. Therefore, the FTC should watch consolidated markets more carefully.

The Gasoline Free Market Competition Act also shifts the burden of proof for price-fixing. If the FTC finds that an oil company is employing anticompetitive practices in a consumer watch zone, the company should have to prove it is not hurting consumers. Redlining and zone pricing would be presumptively illegal. Oil companies that engage in anticompetitive practices that manipulate supply or limit competition would have to prove these practices do not hurt consumers.

Finally, the act gives the FTC clear "cease and desist" authority to stop price-fixing. In consumer watch zones, the FTC could issue "cease and desist" orders to companies participating in these anticompetitive practices, forcing them to stop gouging consumers. The Congress needs to act now to ensure that anticompetitive practices do not lead to further gas price increases, as many energy analysts are predicting.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW ROSS

• Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I rise to commend an outstanding young Floridian. Matthew Ross is an 11-year-old who has overcome tough circumstances and has succeeded. He recently won the prestigious national award, the Temple Grandin Award, for achievement in autism, became the first autistic child to serve as a page in the Florida House of Representatives and won the Special Olympics District Tournament Golfing Regionals in his area. What a year.

I had the privilege of meeting Matt recently. I was impressed by his polite demeanor and his interest in special education issues.

A little over a year ago, Matt was in special education classes because by his own words, he had "trouble with the way my brain processes information." He had been diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome and, earlier, his mother had even considered placing him in a group home. But, now just some 12-13 months later he has blossomed. He is no longer in special education classes, and as I understand it has political aspirations. I give high praise to his mother, Susan Ross, who has steadfastly stood by Matt and made it possible for him to succeed.

I wish Matt all the luck and blessings in the world. Keep it up, Matt.●

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASIA FOUNDATION

• Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Asia Foundation, a private, nonprofit organization based in San Francisco, CA, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2004.

The Asia Foundation is a national asset that has contributed in significant ways to the mutual interests of the people of Asia and the United States for a halfcentury.

Through its programs, the foundation has been instrumental at key moments in these five eventful decades. Early in its life, the foundation contributed to democracy, freedom, peace and constructive relations in post-World War II Asia. Since then, the foundation has invested in Asia's future leaders, built the capacity of democratic institutions, provided support to civil society groups, promoted the rights of women and created opportunities for economic growth and development.

Today, the foundation is contributing to new initiatives in the region, building new governance and opportunity in Afghanistan, for instance, through support to the Constitutional Loya Jirga, helping new democratic institutions in Indonesia and programs with moderate Muslim leaders, and continuing to support human rights and prospects for reform in Cambodia, Nepal, and throughout Asia.